

REQUIRED AUDIO

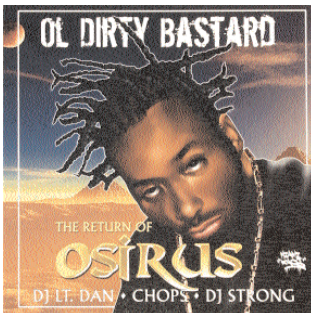
HEARD BEFORE THE HERD

TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN

The Cosmic Game

Thievery Corporation

Back for 2005 is the producer duo, Eric Hilton and Rob Garza and their latest studio album with featured guests like Perry Ferrell, David Byrne and the Flaming Lips. The team has sold an average of 150,000 copies each for *The Richest Man In Babylon* and *The Mirror Conspiracy*—that may seem low by mainstream standards but on the indie level that's pretty-damn good for the DC club owners. If you are looking for that one uncomplicated, down-tempo album that you can just pop in the player and just sit and chill, then look no further.

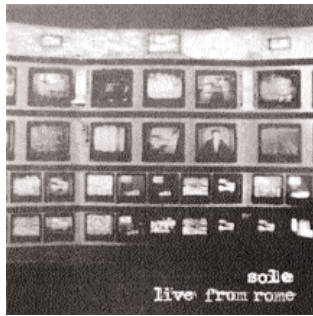


Ol Dirty Bastard: The Return of Osirus
DJ Lt. Dan, Chops, DJ Strong
ODB is the original example for being "straight loco" in hip hop. He was in the studio focusing on the completion of what was to be his final album. To fill his shoes would be nearly impossible, so in the meantime be prepared for the slew of mix-tapes. There's no one who can spread ODB's glory better than the East Coast/West Coast team up of Lt. Dan, Chops and DJ Strong. This 39-track monster has mashups from Dan snapped together with Chops-styled remixes. Bonuses include four snippets from the official mixtape.

Live From Rome

Sole

For a producer and rapper, getting married and moving overseas might lead to producing nothing more than rug rats and relaxation. For Sole (Anticon) however it has made for just enough happiness and concentration—even when traveling between Oakland, Calif., and Barcelona, Spain—to develop a second album that is full of compelling beats and raw lyricism.

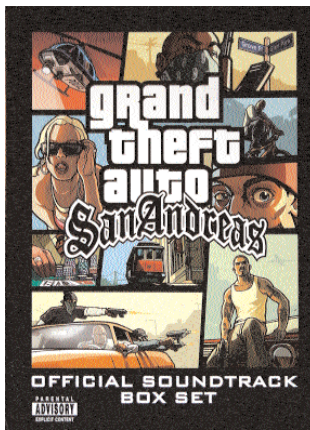


Sounds of Spirit
Jog 9 and Joslyn Rose Lyons
Lyons, a 25-year-old director and Berkeley grad, understands that there are a lot of negative images placed onto today's hip hop music and wanted to help show that there are some positives within the culture. Packed with revealing interviews from many of hip hop's greats like KRS-1, Andre 3000, Common, Cee-lo, Talib Kweli, Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples, Q-Bert, Saul Williams and many others, it explores the creative process and the spiritual outlet through hip hop and its culture. This documentary is the winner of the NY International Independent Film and Video Festival and may be a little much for the residents of radio's hip pop. It may be just the artsy viewing for the visitors.

Grand Theft Auto San Andreas

Sole

Rockstar Games
Since *GTA's* release you've no doubt picked up the controller and flipped through a couple of its radio stations. You've certainly jumped off the bike and jacked a car or two. You've definitely shot a couple of people and got chased by the po-po which ain't no thang nowadays. Maybe you let yourself get shot a couple of times and tatted the holes pretty—

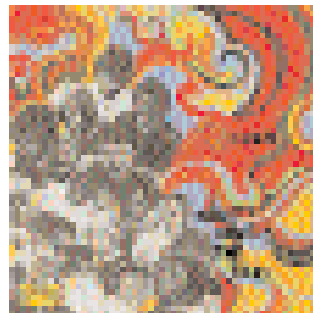


and all the while flipping through those stations—the game's soundtrack really does help the mischief, don't it? Rockstar's eight-disk box set is your real-life ticket to the local police station. Jack your homie's disk changer and drive around in your own hooptie while listening to your favorite *GTA* radio station. Choose between: Playback FM (classic hip hop), Radio Los Santos (modern hip hop), K-Rose (country), Bounce FM (funk), K-DST (classic rock), Master Sounds 98.3 (rare groove), CSR 103.9 (new jack swing), K-Jah Radio (dub/reggae), or Radio X (modern rock). Bada-bing-bada-boom you're a thug but try to explain to the cops that you're only playing around. For all you cheapasses, there is a three-disk set (two box set compilation CDs and a DVD) that's just as hot—but not as cool.

Classic

Living Legends

The nine-member crew (Sunspot Jonz, PSC, The Grouch, Murs, Scarub, Eligh, Aesop, Arata and Bicasso) could be the West Coast-backpacker equivalent to the Wu. Again, this ain't the Chingy/50-type music you'll be banging down the block—this is another one that is much greater through the headphones. *Classic* is their best crew release, but like the Wu they wreck shop better as a whole—having just a couple potential soloists who can hold the attention for more than 16 bars. (Think Meth and ODB.)



Beauty and the Beat

Edan

Straight out of Boston comes Edan and his sophomore release. *Beauty and the Beat* is a step above that average backpacker b-boy type of hip hop. Nostalgically it borrows from the '80s—shitty, under-leveled mic vocals; bits of hip hop samples; and atypical kicks and snares. It also incorporates strange reverbed '70s rock sound-loops, and orchestral violins and flutes. The obvious result is a byproduct of late 90s acid-induced raves. As peculiar as it sounds, this unique melding of hip hop produces reluctant head-bobbing—it's ultimately the physical signal of urban approval. Donning the headphones for concentration increases acceptance of this one.